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9TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND POWER
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4609

September 23, 2011

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

WCP
USF/icc
1342

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I understand the Commission has a proceeding underway that is intended to reform the Universal Service and Intercarrier Compensation programs. I applaud the Commission's initiative in this area.

As the Commission has itself noted, far too many Americans living in rural areas lack broadband availability and the reform of these two programs is critical to accelerating deployment. Indeed, this proceeding is extremely important to my district, the Ninth District of Virginia, which is among the many rural Congressional districts in this country where broadband availability remains below the national average.

As the Commission considers its reform order, I hope that you give strong consideration to the historic consensus that has been reached among local exchange carriers – large and small, urban and rural – that is reflected in the America's Broadband Connectivity plan and the Joint Rural Association plan. It is my understanding that the framework provided by these proposals will accelerate deployment in a responsible manner by carefully targeting funding and keeping the USF high-cost fund within its current bounds. I would hope that the Commission could take advantage of this unprecedented consensus to move expeditiously, within the timetable you have established, and issue an Order by the end of October.

Again, I commend the Commission for taking action in this area and look forward to the issuance of an order next month. There are few issues of more critical importance to rural America – particularly during this time of job loss and economic dislocation.

Sincerely yours,

H. Morgan Griffith
H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell

29 SEP 2011 RCUD



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
U.S. House of Representatives
1108 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Griffith:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

On October 27, after many years of hard work on Capitol Hill, among the FCC's Commissioners, and by Commission staff, the Commission unanimously adopted a comprehensive Order overhauling the broken and backward-looking USF and ICC systems for the Internet age. By transitioning these programs to the Connect America Fund, we are delivering on our shared national goal of universal voice and broadband service – including universal mobile voice and broadband service – and enabling increased private sector investment in the indispensable infrastructure of the 21st century: broadband. Importantly, our reforms are fiscally responsible, eliminating waste and inefficiency, using market-based mechanisms to target support where it is needed, and putting the Fund on a firm budget.

The Commission's Order will create jobs beginning in 2012, and lay the foundation for enduring job creation, economic growth, and U.S. global competitiveness for years to come.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the Order's "Executive Summary." Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over the name Julius Genachowski.

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure